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Remarks: Ls 4: Page 3 on academic relation and application for universities may be of interest. Ls 5: Please classify into file 74-124-2913. <div style="text-align: center;">[Signature]</div>			
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Subject: Volodymyr Oleksiyovych KRAVETS

d.o.b. ca. 1929

Source: RM

P.o.b. UMAN, Cherkaska Obl.

Date: 14 December 1965

Subject is a docent at the Kiev Politechnical Institute and a specialist in the History of USSR. He is in the USA on a UNESCO Fellowship (arrived here Oct. 13) to study "Technical Progress and the Humanities". He hopes to gather enough material for a doctoral dissertation. The work, admittedly is of a sociological nature, but in the Soviet Union sociology is not as yet on its own, and it is quite proper for a historian, teaching at a Politechnick to engage in it. There is very little known in the USSR about the American experience in the training of technologists and the balance between technology and humanities, so this thing he is trying to do should "sell well."

Personal characteristics: Kravets is about 36, 5'7" tall, very thin, with dark hair worn long. He speaks very slowly in a soft voice, but with obvious determination. He speaks Ukrainian, but from time to time throws in a Russian word. It is suspected that the reason he speaks so slowly is that he is watching his language: making sure every word is Ukrainian. K affects some mannerisms, which are similar to those used by other young people from Kiev; probably a fashion these days. One such mannerism is while he is speaking, he places his right index finger vertically across his lips and draws his cheeks back. This appears when he is concentrating, trying to make some important statement, or trying to remember something. He has very little sense of humour, that is to say he laughs at jokes, but he is very bad at cracking ~~his own~~ the spur of the moment, and the ones he tells are definitely provincial and dated. He stays away from political jokes, ~~and~~ prefers the kolhosp variety.

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Background: He was born in a village near Uman, Cherkasska Oblast, where his parents and grandmother still live. During ~~WWII~~ the Second World War he was not on the occupied territory (he is very careful to point this out), because the family migrated east to the virgin lands, near the Ural River. In 1949 he entered the university in Kharkiv, where he studied for five years, and because he had excellent grades immediately entered the aspirantura and became a candidate in three more years.

He started to teach when he was 28 in Uman' at the agricultural institute. Then, when he wanted to marry and the living quarters were too small, he applied for his present job in Kiev.

Present status : K is married to a Poltava girl named Raissa. The couple have a five-year-old son Andriy. (he carries a dozen pictures of wife and son with him in his briefcase). They live with her mother in an apartment in a new part of Kiev on Melnikov St. He readily admits that they live well (although in a small apartment), because he draws 320 rubles a month and she -- 100. She is an MD, but still does not have an academic degree, so she is now working for her candidate's degree in medicine.

About the meeting: It took place in a private apartment near Columbia Univ., over supper. Present were: the hosts, two more couples, a single girl and K. -- all directly and indirectly associated with Columbia. Some time was wasted primarily for two reasons: the group of eight persons was a bit too large; at least two of those present were not on the same level of familiarity with the background on and the situation in the USSR, which necessitated some explanations of points brought up.

K first appeared a week before this meeting in Barnard Library of Columbia. He had some difficulties with English, and two librarians (who were at the meeting) came to his aid with Ukrainian. The invitation to dinner followed.

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Topics discussed: K showed excellent familiarity with salary schedules in the academic world. He did this very deliberately explaining that the salaries are dependent on the teaching experience - up to five years and more than five years, and on the academic rank. These are: Assistant, Lecturer, Docent and Professor. The salaries range from 120 rubles for assistants with experience (105 rubles for those just starting), to 500 rubles for professors. Rectors of higher educational establishments receive three types of salaries, corresponding to the type of establishment it is: Class I, II or III. Class III establishment is the smallest, usually a pedagogical institute and its rector gets 400 a month. Class I is something like the Kiev Polytechnic (24,000 students), whose rector gets 600 or 700 rubles. The salaries are the same throughout the Union.

To get a job at a university, a person applies where there is an opening. He also sends in his published works and copies of dissertations. If there are more than one candidate for a position the learned council of the university (deans, chairmen of departments etc. decide who is to get it by secret balloting. The job is usually contracted for five years, except for the starters, who get it for three years, in a place decided by the ministry of education. If a university does not want to keep a person after the term is up, ~~they talk~~ the learned council lets him know this two months before he is to leave. But if a person wants to leave for another place, and a university wants to keep him, then they start to bargain: the usual complaint is small quarters, so the university finds him a better place to live.

An interesting thing explained by K was the staffing of a new university and a branch of the Academy of Sciences in Donetsk. To get the people to go there the university offers such attractions as covering of all the moving costs, including taxis and subways; extra money to buy new furniture; comfortable quarters and also a chance to work in a brand new establishment with new equipments etc. (in that order, as told by K).

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Communist Party: K said he was not a member, but showed great familiarity with the establishment of party organizations in higher educational establishments.

Asked whether it would benefit a university professor to belong to the party, in order to get a better position etc. K quoted Lenin, who said, there are no special benefits for party members, but they have an extra burden -- to ~~follow~~ adhere to the party discipline. He added that a Party member must go and work where the Party sends him, whether in his case he can say, No thanks, and find another job.

About the Party establishment at universities, he explained that the organizations are in the faculties, and hold their meetings on that level, but once or twice a year the university holds a joint conference of all the faculty Party organizations.

In cases where there are few members in a given faculty there is also an organization, but it is of a lesser grade, distinguished by the fact that it cannot nominate new Party members, whereas a full-fledged organization -- can.

Discussions are now underway to form some sort of Party organization for evening, part-time students. ~~Was it~~ According to regulations they must belong to the organization where they work, but it was found that special problems are cropping up, such as overload of work placed on workers who are also students, so it would be a good idea to have a special Party organization, which would be better able to place pressure on the factory managers through the Party channels. Right now, for instance, a man like K has to go to factories and negotiate for special privileges for student-workers with the managers. This is not always effective. A Party directive would be more effective.

Level of students: Depending on the institution, some students who graduate are better prepared, and others-- worse. But the diploma is the same. This is generally known. Another thing generally known is that evening students are not as well prepared as the day students. K was also critical of the Khrushchevian

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idea of work experience before studies (but he did not name Khrushchev, mere said "They tried ..."). The students who went to work for two years, he said, forgot what they learned in high school. Also -- what experience can a village boy get, if he wants to be a physicist, and his work experience will almost definitely be on a kolhosp running a combine?

Asked about the impending problem of double the number of high school graduates this year, because both grades 10 and 11 will graduate, K admitted that it will be a nightmare, because now only 26 per cent of the graduates get into the universities. This year the ~~number~~ ^{percentage} will be cut in half.

His teaching: About the only time K allowed some emotion to creep into his conversation was when he said that teaching his subject (History of the USSR) was "very difficult". This was said semi-privately, and purposely was not followed up by any other questions on the topic. He also did not explain further.

K admitted that teaching history at an engineering school has its problems, because it is a compulsory subject for the first year students. "But they have to do well in it, and get at least a 2Third", because otherwise they chance losing their scholarships."

His travels: He has been to many cities of the Ukraine (including Lviv), because he was sent several times to check on the teaching of the History of USSR in other schools of the Republic. This is his second trip outside the USSR. Last year he went to Poland to take part in the celebration of the 5th anniversary of the Jagellonian University, which was very impressive because there were thousands of scholars from across the world in their colorful academic robes. "No, we don't have any robes in the Soviet Union." This was said with an it-would-be-nice-if-we-did-too note in his voice.

Prejudices: When a conversation took a slight turn towards anti-Semitism

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K was very careful to interject, although no one put a question to him, that "you won't find me anti-Semitic, anti-Russian, anti-Tadzik or anti-anything. I have nothing ~~xxxx~~ against any nationality, and it does not even interest me."

Family life: This seems to be in good order. He misses his wife and son already. "My son is already big enough, so that I can talk man to man with him, and take him out for walks. (The son is five).

He showed a photo of his son sitting on a high chair at a table. He said that the son often puts his feet up on the table and K ~~xxxxxx~~ told him once, "There you are, sitting like a bourgeois." Now the son tells him, "Look, Papa, I am a bourgeois."

Impressions of USA: He has been to the University of California, University of Chicago and Columbia. He is very impressed with the material aspects of all these universities: fancy buildings, impressive equipment, comfortable libraries. It is obvious, he said, that they are all well off. He also found that much of what he read about the US is different, implying that it is really better than what he expected.

He was interested in old-age pensions, and when quoted the figures, was impressed with that too. His grandmother, he said, now draws a pension ~~xxxxxx~~ from the kolhosp -- a very recent development. She gets 12 rubles a month, some grain, and has her own garden plot and a cow. Workers get about 80 rubles pension, "so you see, it is less than what the pensioners get in America."

His plans: He is very anxious to extend his fellowship for another month and is working towards that end. The difficulty is that although he got a six-months' fellowship it is to run out at the end of the year. He was sent over too late, and told to leave three days in advance. The foul up was obviously on the part of his government.

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Conclusions: He looks and acts scared. Absolutely refuses to get involved in any mention of politics, e.g. appointment of Ukraine's foreign affairs minister. Asked about Kysil, who used to be delegate to UNESCO, K said Kysil is now deputy minister of foreign affairs. That's all. Just waht's in the papers. When R said "I'm pretty sure Tranko will get the job of minister," K just smiled and obviously wanted to get to safer ground. He also did not know exactly where Palamarchuk went. "Is it Congo?" he said, and had to be told it was Morocco.

Asked whether he would like to go to the Ukrainian Academy Saturday to hear Pritsak speak on the authorship of Slovo of polku Ihorevim. K used the excuse that UNESCO fellowship precludes his attendance at public gatherings or any interviews.

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